Message Text

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R 241608Z JUL 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EAIR, NZ

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: POLYNESIAN AIRLINES

REF: (A) WELLINGTON 2483, (B) WELLINGTON 3591, (C) STATE 180954

1. REGARDING CONTINENTAL AIRLINES (REF A PARA 3A),
CONTINENTAL REP CONFIRMED THAT RECENTLY COMPANY TEAM
VISITED WESTERN SAMOA AND PEOPLE FROM POLYNESIAN AIRLINES
VISITED CONTINENTAL'S OFFICES AT LOS ANGELES. HOWEVER,
DISCUSSIONS WERE LIMITED TO MARKETING COORDINATION
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING. CONTINENTAL HAS
NO PLANS TO OPERATE AIRCRAFT SMALLER THAN DC-10'S
AND WOULD ONLY-HOPE TO MESH ITS FLIGHTS WITH REGIONAL
OPERATIONS. CONTINETAL ALSO HAS NO PLANS TO "REPLACE"
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AIR NEW ZEALAND AS POLYNESIAN PARTNER.

2. REGARDING PASSENGER SECURITY, FAA INFORMS
DEPARTMENT THAT THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF PREVIOUS
DISCUSSION BETWEEN FAA AND POLYNESIAN AIRLINES. FAA MAINTAINS POLYNESIAN AIRLINES FULLY AWARE PERTINENT FAA
REG ON THIS MATTER. FEDERAL AVIATION REGULATION (FAR)

PART 129, SECTION 129.25, STATES THAT FOREIGN AIR CARRIERS LANDING AND TAKING OFF IN LARGE AIRCRAFT

IN THE US MUST HAVE A SECURITY PROGRAM DESIGNED TO DO CERTAIN THINGS, WHICH ARE SPECIFIED IN THE REGULATION. LARGE AIRCRAFT ARE DEFINED AS THOSE OVER 12,500 LBS. AIRCRAFT UNDER THAT WEIGHT DO NOT FACE THE SAME REQUIREMENT. THIS IS WHY SPIA AND POLYNESIAN FACE DIFFERENT PASSENGER SECURITY REGULATIONS.

3. REGARDING LANDING FEES (REF A PARA 3B3), USG POLICY ON THIS IS THAT SUCH CHARGES SHOULD BE RELATED TO THE COST OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED, AND THAT THEY SHOULD BE IMPOSED IN A NON-DISCRIMINATORY MANNER. IT IS ENTIRELY REASONABLE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING PRACTICE TO CHARGE DIFFERENT FEES FOR DIFFERENT AIRCRAFT. THEREFORE IT WOULD BE REASONABLE FOR SPIA TO PAY LESS FOR SMALLER AIRCRAFT AT TAFUNA. HOWEVER, IF SPIA IS PAYING NO LANDING FEES, IT WOULD SEEM AT FIRST BLUSH THAT EIKENI HAS A POINT. EMBASSY SHOULD ASCERTAIN CURRENT SCHEDULE OF FEES AT TAFUNA AND CONFIRM EIKENI ALLEGATION THAT SPIA PAYING NO LANDING FEES. IF SPIA NOT PAYING, JUSTIFICATION FOR NON-PAYMENT SHOULD BE OBTAINED FROM TAFUNA AIRPORT, OR FROM WHATEVER ORGANIZATION ADMINISTERS THE AIRPORT. UPON RECEIPT SUCH INFORMATION, DEPARTMENT CAN DETERMINE VALIDITY OF EIKENI CLAIM OF DISCRIMINATION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. REGARDING NON-PAYMENT OF INSPECTORS BY SPIA (REF A PARA 3B5), DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS EMBASSY HANDLE PROBLEM AS TRADE COMPLAINT. THIS WOULD INVOLVE INFORMING SPIA THAT EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED COMPLAINT AND REQUESTING AIRLINE THAT, IF THERE HAS BEEN A DELAY IN PAYMENT, HOPEFULLY MATTER CAN BE WORKED OUT TO MUTUAL SATISFACTION. VANCE

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